

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

March 10, 2024

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30 PM	Tuesday, 8:00 AM
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Friday, 8:00 AM

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager
dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation
smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music
ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary
ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary
dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Baptism Preparation

Third Wednesday of every month. Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

Religious Education/Formation

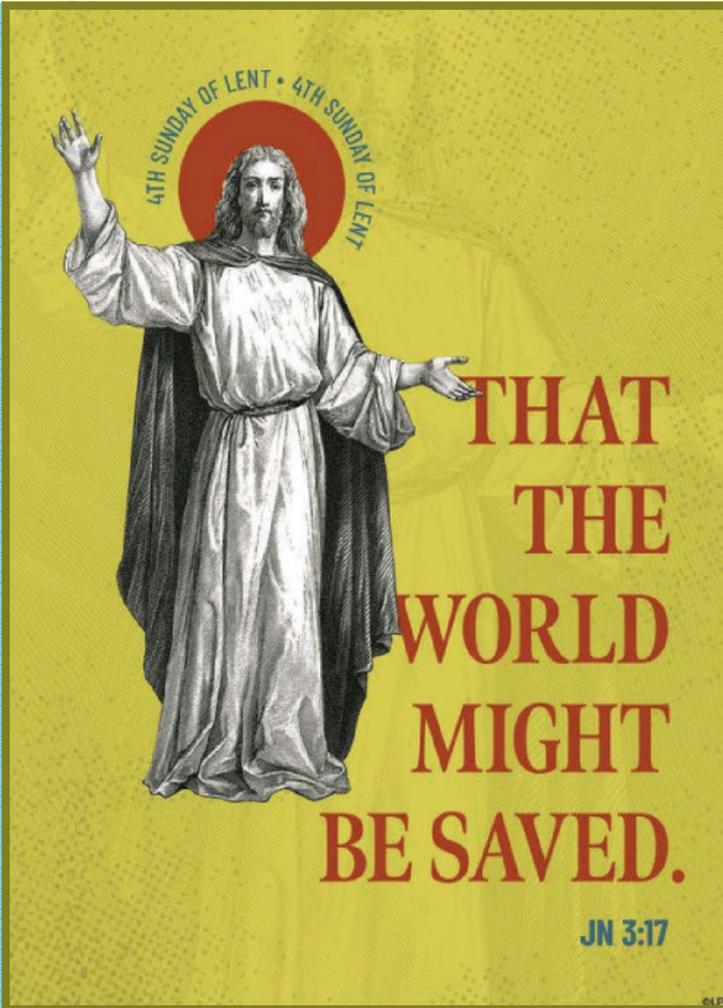
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please call the Faith Formation Office.

Reconciliation

Confessions are on Saturday: Epiphany—11:30 a.m. and St. Sebastian—3:30 p.m. You may also call at any-time for an appointment for confession.



Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Ms. Tiffany Zetty: School Business Manager
TZetty@sssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



From the Pastor
The Presence of God's Mercy



As we hear the Word of God on this Fourth Sunday of Lent we are reminded of redemption and God's mercy. In the first reading we hear about the political situation of the Jewish people who are reminded of the warnings spoken by the prophet Jeremiah that unless the people repented, they would have to pay the price for their infidelities. As a result Israel was taken into captivity and the people were the servants of the people of Persia. St. Paul in the second reading reminds us that "God, who is rich in mercy," is always with us. Then the gospel gives us the famous line, "God so loved the world that he gave his only son." In all three readings we see that God's incredible love for all people will never be undimmed.

We can see from our readings today that history has a way of repeating itself. There are so many times in life when God might be telling us something, or at least trying to tell us something and we just are not paying attention. Hind sight might help us to see what we should have been seeing all along. We have many prophets in our world today that are trying to get us to see God's hand in creation, but we are so caught up in our own lives, our own issues that we just aren't seeing what we should be seeing or hearing. In spite of the many mistakes we might make in life, in spite of the many things that go wrong in our world, we are being told today that God restores all things and brings back to life. When all seems hopeless and lost, it is when we learn to trust in God's care that we are given hope and situations get better.

As we look back to the people of Israel, one of the greatest lessons that can be learned is that God's mercy is always with us in life. The Jewish people often felt that they had to earn that mercy and love. They believed that when they did wrong God would take that mercy away and only when the people earned the love of God was it returned to them. St. Paul is quick to remind us that God's mercy is always there, we could never earn it. He tells us that we do not earn God's grace or mercy, and salvation is not something we can boast about. It has been said that "Christ is the savior of sinners rather than a rewarder of the sinless." Christian holiness and the good works we do are not the cause of salvation. They are the result of it. The Lenten season is a time when we respond more deeply and generously to the grace that inspires us to perform the good works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The gospel shows us that eternal life comes from Jesus being lifted up on the cross. We simply cannot earn that ourselves, God freely gives us that gift through Jesus. It is through the death of Jesus that we are given life. We need to remind ourselves that the salvation that God brings to us is belief in Jesus accompanied by good deeds done in his name. God's mercy is always there, even when it is hard for us to see and recognize it. It is good for us to look back over our life and recognize how our lives have been changed by God's grace and mercy without any effort on our part. It is only when we realize how gifted we are with God's mercy, freely given that we are able to be lifted up and freely embrace this life that we have been given.

MONTHLY OVERVIEW—Listed below is a breakdown of what our monthly expenses were as opposed to the amount of money taken in. We will be providing this to you on a monthly basis.

Feb. Expenses	Amount
Maintenance	\$ 360.82
Electric	\$ 717.65
Gas	\$ 1,442.36
Other Utilities	\$ 263.35
Misc. Office	\$ 1,139.22
Church/Liturgy	\$ 2,753.41
Payroll	\$ 22,429.61
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 14,303.32
(Breakdown)	
Accent	\$ 545.70
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,384.47
Dio. Assessment	\$ 3,729.27
Insurance	\$ 3,477.24
Data Processing	\$ 166.64
Total	\$ 43,409.74

Week	Collection
Feb. 4	\$ 8,649.36
Feb. 11	\$ 11,918.83
Feb. 18	\$ 10,628.00
Feb. 25	\$ 10,180.00
Elec. Offerings	\$ 4,520.14
Total	\$ 45,896.33



Consider online giving, click the "my Offering" button on our parish website.

Stewardship of Treasure
March 3, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$ 8,134.25
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 340.00
Votives:	\$ 152.85
Catholic Accent:	\$ 25.00
Good Friday:	\$ 10.00
Holy Thursday:	\$ 5.00
Easter:	\$ 20.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 13.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 465.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 138.00
Lenten Season:	\$ 954.00
Total Mar 2/3	\$ 10,257.60

DLA

Our Lenten Appeal is picking up momentum! Thus far we have a total of \$21,033 in gifts and pledges. This amount comes from 82 families which is 12% of our parish, and we are at 21% of our parish goal of \$85,057.

Please remember that I am grateful for anything that you are able to give this year. I pray that our campaign in the parish is a success this year. Again, if you have any concerns or questions about DLA, know that I am here to answer them.

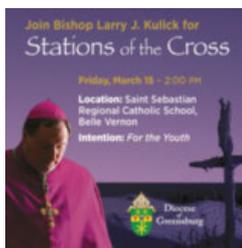
Flowers for the Paschal Candle & Altar/Candle Rings

If you would like to have flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please contact the Parish Office. Flowers for the Paschal Candle are \$100, and flowers for the Altar Candle Rings are \$100 for the pair.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Bishop Larry J. Kulick will join students from Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School on Friday, **March 15**, at 2:00 p.m. for Stations of the Cross. During the stations, Bishop Kulick's intention will be for our youth.



When attending devotions at St Sebastian, please refrain from parking in the Auto Clinic's lots. Be considerate of our neighbors and their patrons."

Reconciliation—Penance Services

We are already in the fourth week of Lent and the Penance services for our region have begun. I hope that you will make the effort and take the time to come and share in this sacrament of God's forgiving love.

- March 12: Seven Dolors, Yukon—6:00 pm
- March 18: St. Anne's, Rostraver—6:30 pm
- March 19: St. Edward's, Herminie—6:00 pm
- March 20: Holy Family, West Newton—6:30 pm
- March 21: St. John's, Perryopolis—6:00 pm

Lenten Devotion

Come join St. Sebastian Ladies of Faith on Saturday, **March 16**, at 1:00 p.m. for a unique presentation of Mary's Way of the Cross. Everyone is welcome to this profound Lenten Reflection at St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.



Filling the ARK

This week because of your generosity we were able to board onto the ARK:

1 Sheep; 1 Pig; 1 Goat; 1 Flock of Geese

A Gift of a Pig: To help hungry, undernourished families put protein back in their diets at little cost, Heifer teaches farmers how to raise healthy pigs even with scant resources. A farmer who may not be able to manage cows can raise pigs. In Latin America, pigs eat rejected bananas or damaged yams that otherwise would be wasted. They grow to market weight while producing manure that improves crop production. Around the world, using resources once considered worthless, impoverished families supply themselves with the protein and income they need to build better houses, put their children in school and improve their lives.



A Gift of a Rabbit: Why rabbits? Because even a family without the land or resources to raise cows or even goats can find a warm dry spot – in a hutch on a back porch or perhaps even in a cool burrow dug beneath a garden planter – where rabbits can thrive. They can be fed with vegetable waste and kitchen scraps, so they conserve farm resources as they grow. And, like other livestock, rabbits are sources of healthy protein to help feed the hungry. Their nitrogen-rich manure makes excellent fertilizer to put on crops as compost. And everyone knows how rabbits proliferate. Here's a gift that multiplies! With as many as 40 offspring a year, a trio of rabbits can provide a family with a steady source of protein and income.

Liturgies of the Week

March 9—Vigil

4:30 pm Edna Patricia Garnic—Garnic Family

March 10—Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Josephine Bacha—Family

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, March 11

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, March 12

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Arthur F. Trilli—Daughter, Celeste Trilli Palamara

6:00 pm Penance Service—Seven Dolors—Yukon

Wednesday, March 13

No Mass Today

Thursday, March 14

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, March 15

8:00 am Bertha Whitten, Helen Tripett and Rudy Delopitro—Sister, Alexia Jones

2:00 pm Stations of the Cross with Bishop Kulick

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 16—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Bill Picchiarini—Wife, Joan & Family

March 17—Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Deceased of the Koury & Pietrowski Families—Family

11:00 am Romaine S. Kerestes—Daughter, Amy

THE ROSARY IS PRAYED SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM, PRIOR TO THE 9:00 AM MASS. PLEASE JOIN US!

Sympathy and Prayers—Please remember in your prayers those who have died: ANN ADAMETZ and ANTHONY M. MUCCINO. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

Christian Families

Next Weekend, **March 16 and 17** following all masses, Roni Salsa, representing the Bethlehem Christian Families, a not-for-profit organization through Land of Peace, will be with us to speak about the Christina situation in the Holy Land. The goal of this mission is to help Christian families in the Holy Land and Churches in the Middle East who have been affected by the continuous violence and the depletion of tourist to the area. Crucifixes, rosaries, and religious articles, all made of Olive Wood, which is native to the Holy land and Bethlehem, are available to purchase. The sale of these goods will help them very much and will give you the opportunity to have something "authentic" from the Holy Land to help your personal devotion. For more information, please see www.bcfmission.com.

Last Supper Gift of the Eucharist

The history of the famous Leonardo da Vinci painting is presented via a video by Vatican Art Historian, Dr. Elizabeth Lev. Join the Church of St. Anne, Rostraver, for this continuously running event on **March 17** from 1:00—5:00 pm and **March 18** from 8:30 am—10:00 am repeated 6:00 pm—7:30 pm. For more information call 724-872-3555.



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